

• Abroad •

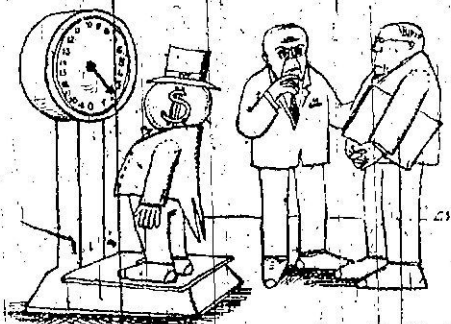
Addis Ababa. The precise significance of the December revolt is still obscure, but the main lines seem to be these. Haile Selassie visited Russia in 1959. Since then Russian influence in Ethiopia has expanded rapidly. His policy shifted to a Moscow-pointing neutralism. A pro-Western faction, including persons educated in England and the United States along with many officers, became convinced that the eastward drift could be halted only by deposing Haile Selassie. A second, Communized faction wanted to speed up and complete the alignment with Moscow. This second faction believed, rightly or wrongly, that the pro-Western group was about to act, and therefore felt compelled to stage a "preventive coup" while the Emperor was abroad. Confronted with this development, the pro-Western group felt compelled to join with Haile Selassie's personal supporters in order to beat back the pro-Communists. On this basis, Selassie was able to get back on his throne, from which he is now purging those of both factions whom he suspects of personal disloyalty. Moscow stayed officially aloof, and continues in close relation. Plans of the pro-Westerners have been disrupted. In the unstable aftermath, the eastward drift is likely to continue.

Prague. A report of the Council of the Prague National Committee, which has the job of liquidating private enterprise in the city, declares that 666 private businesses remained in 1960. Almost all of these were small trades and service shops: men's tailors (179), dressmakers (30), barbers (50), tobacco shops (47), laundries (33). Surprisingly, 85 doctors' offices were listed as operating privately; and five cab drivers. The assortment suggests that the new Communist elite does not choose to rely on nationalized industry to minister to its health, comfort and luxury.

Casablanca. French observers, with long experience in African affairs, have analyzed the results of the recent "African Summit Conference" called by King Mohammed V. They conclude that it was a total failure, and revealed both the deep divisions within Africa as a whole and the conflicting interests of the six participants (Morocco, UAR, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Libya, plus Ferhat Abbas' rebel Algerian government—the GPRA—as observer). The nations of the French Community were absent, as were Liberia, Sudan, and Africa's largest nation, Nigeria. No common outlook or objective was shared by the six. Morocco wanted support for its claim to Mauritania. Guinea and Mali wanted to celebrate their new marriage. Libya to cover its continuing hostility to U.S. air bases by a radical gesture; Ghana, to further Nkrumah's pan-African ambitions, in particular to advance his pro-Lumumba line in the Congo; the UAR, to promote anti-Israelism; Abbas, to get a total denunciation of France. The final communiqué was a hodgepodge, with little practical

meaning. These observers believe the West would be well advised to pay less attention to the free-wheeling Nasser, Touré and Nkrumah, and orient themselves more toward the many African leaders, groups and nations that, in their estimate, genuinely seek a working accommodation with the West on the new non-colonial basis.

Pasajes, Spain. The ancient law of the sea is about to reward a half dozen Basque fishermen of this Guipuzcoa village for their spectacular catch. On Jan. 7, 1959 they came upon the British submarine *Virulent* drifting unmanned in the Bay of Biscay. In a storm it had broken away from a tug which was towing it to a shipyard for scrapping. They boarded, and brought it back home. After lengthy legal formalities, it has now been put up for auction, with an official valuation of 65 million pesetas (more than \$1 million). The greater part of the sum realized will go to the salvaging fishermen.



Tjebbe Lede (Wahaw)

"No matter what we do, he keeps on losing weight."

Liege, Belgium. In most of Belgium the general strike has ended, but in the Walloon "socialist country"—Liege-Charleroi-Mons—subotage, arson and personal violence, though by now without any conceivable economic justification, continue. This serves to clarify the real significance of the Belgian crisis, for which opposition to the government's mild austerity measures was at no time more than a handy excuse. Basically, the movement was not economic but political and revolutionary. Its revolutionary nature was expressed from the beginning by the violent and yet carefully organized tactics, the selection of targets (e.g., banks, newspapers, government buildings), and the extremist rhetoric. There is reason to believe that a "nationalist" Walloon united front, now led by the socialist militant, André Renard, but stretching from the Socialists to the Communists, radical students, delinquents, and even some bourgeois circles, has set itself the objective of an independent, "liberated" Wallonia for which Fidel Castro's Cuba is taken as political model. It is hard to imagine an outlook more pleasing to the Kremlin than a Castrovian enclave in the heart of western Europe.

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